

SUMMER TASKS – GCSE TO AS TRANSITION

Subject: Late Medieval and Early Modern History

Title: Summer Work

Task(s): Summer work

The purpose of this assignment is to consider the 'norms and values' that Tudor society held and reflect on the historical implications. We will compare modern values to those of the past. YOUR ideas will develop as your knowledge and understanding deepens, thus this assignment will expand and develop over the course.

Henry VIII: Dynastic Considerations

The ultimate objective of a monarch is to ensure the safe succession of the dynasty (family) after his death. Therefore births, deaths and marriages assume great importance. The significance of dynastic security was increased for Henry VIII because he had no surviving uncles or brothers. Furthermore, he struggled to get the legitimate son. He believed that a son could assure his legacy and let the Tudor dynasty continue.

Questions raised:

Why do you think so much emphasis was placed on male inheritance?

Why did Henry marry his brother's widow?

Henry's first marriage to Catherine of Aragon on 11th June 1509 was controversial and very significant. The couple had much to celebrate but there were lamentations too.

- 1509: after only two months of marriage queen Catherine became pregnant.
- 1510: Catherine gave birth to a stillborn daughter
- 1511: A son, Prince Henry was born but he died after a few weeks
- 1513: Catherine gave birth to a premature stillborn son
- 1514: Another stillborn son was born
- 1515: A pregnancy was announced but Catherine miscarried the child
- 1516: Catherine gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Mary
- 1517: Catherine suffered another miscarriage
- 1518: Catherine gave birth to a daughter, but she died after a few hours.

How might the disappointments have affected Henry's sense of security?

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In general daughters were not considered to be appropriate material for good rule or good governance. Ideally, women were to be governed by their male guardians. In 1558 John Knox published a vitriolic treatise on the subject:

Source 1: An extract from *The First blast of the Trumpet against the Monstrous regiment (rule) of Women* written by John Knox. He was writing at a time when women held power in France, Scotland, and England. Knox was a Scottish scholar and author.

To promote a woman to bear rule, superiority, dominion or empire above any realm, nation, or city is repugnant to nature, contumely (an insult) to God, and the subversion of good order, of all equity and justice. Men illuminated only by the light of nature have seen and determined that it is a thing most repugnant to nature that women rule and govern over men. Woman in her greatest perfection was made to serve and obey man, not to rule and command him.

What do we learn from Knox about his view of women and their place in society?

Is the evidence provided by Source 1 useful to historians studying the Tudor period?

Case Study:

In 1518 prestigious marriage plans with the French royal family were announced. Princess Mary, born in 1516, was to marry the son of King Francis I. This was, in part, conventional foreign policy but there was also some determination to unite Christendom against the Ottoman Turks (link to the Treaty of London). Nonetheless the diplomacies collapsed after three years.

In 1522 Princess Mary was contracted in marriage to her cousin Charles Hapsburg, Holy Roman Emperor. He was sixteen years older than Mary. The engagement was broken by mutual consent (Charles V and Henry VIII). Then c.1525 until 1533 Henry's marriage to queen Catherine was in trouble, the issue was commonly called "The King's Great Matter."

In 1526 Charles married princess Isabella of Portugal (his cousin). In 1578 Isabella's nephew, King Sebastian of Portugal died, without an heir. A succession

crisis was avoided when in 1580 King Philip II of Spain (Charles and Isabella's eldest son) inherited the kingdom of Portugal by right of his status as his mother's heir.

- **What do we learn from the case study about King Henry's plans for his daughter Mary?**
- **What can we learn about the complexities of female inheritance from the case study?**

How long should I spend on this? The work has been designed to sit into an average lesson, hence 1.5 hrs would be appropriate. However, before you offer your judgement, you should give yourself some time to reflect on the information provided.

How will I get feedback? We will discuss this work, and your ideas during the first week. This work offers a foundation, it will be developed in lessons and the first AS written assignment will make use of it.

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